WSDOT's

Public Transportation Grants 2003-2005

Responding to Communities
Consolidating Processes
Preparing for Changes

Cathy Silins June 18, 2002

Public Transportation is provided by many agencies, for example:

- Transit Agencies (seven types authorized by the Legislature: city transit, CTA, PTBA, Metro, RTA, UPTBA, SNPTBA)
- · Tribal Governments, Tribal Non-Profit Agencies
- · School Districts
- · Private Non-Profit Agencies
- Private for Profit Companies
- Providers associated with social service programs and facilities (nursing homes, Boys/Girls Club)
- Volunteers

Public Transportation serves the general public and specific groups, for example:

- · Commuters
- · Transportation Dependent
 - Youth
 - Elderly
 - Persons with disabilities (mental and physical)
 - People with low-income

Public Transportation is provided different ways, for example:

- Fixed Route bus
- · Route Deviated bus
- Demand Response
 - Door-to-door services
 - Curb-to-curb services
 - ADA complementary paratransit
- · Ridesharing and Vanpooling

Public Transportation grants administered by WSDOT in 2002

- · Federal Transit Administration
 - Section 5310
 - Section 5311, 5311(f) (a of all organia)
 - Section 5309 Discretionary
 - STP transfers, CMAQ
 - JARC managed and the b
- State Grant
 - Rural Mobility

Concerns from the Communities

- ✓ State applications were due in April of odd years, federal applications were due each July
- ✓ Agencies found it difficult to budget for projects and services when they did not know if they received a grant until after their budget was set
- ✓ Some agencies rely on state grants to match federal grants; some have no local match
- ✓ Agencies submit the same project to both state and federal grant programs but use different forms
- ✓ Some grants were available for the life of the project, some were available for only 24 months

Options Presented to WSDOT



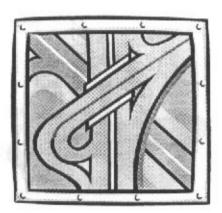
- Change grant programs from competitive to allocated
- Change contracts to annual or federal fiscal year (Oct 1 to Sept 30)
- Change contracts to biennium (July 1 to June 30, odd yrs)

WSDOT develops a new public transportation grant schedule

- In March 2001, WSDOT notified all potential applicants that only for the next cycle, FTA grants would be for an 18-month period began January 2002 -- end June 2003
- Rural Mobility grants
 began July 2001 end June 2003

2002 Legislature Provides New Directions

ESSB 6347
 "The department shall work cooperatively with the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation and the Washington State Transit Association to establish grant application procedures and selection criteria for paratransit and rural mobility projects."



2003-2005

Grant Application Procedure and Criteria Development Work Group

- · Three representatives from ACCT
- · Three representatives from WSTA
- · One representative from CTA-NW
- Staff from the House Transportation Committee and the Senate Transportation Committee
- Three representatives from WSDOT's PT & R Division

Work Group takes on challenges and identifies solutions

- Schedule
- Use a single application for projects in 2003-2005 (federal <u>and</u> state funded projects)
- · Matching Funds
- Allow applicants to request state funds for match

- Categorical funding and silo programming
- Use broad definitions for state grant programs which do not exclude projects and allow for maximum flexibility
- JARC earmarks
- Define paratransit to include "low income"
- Review Panels
 Broaden participation

What can MPOs/RTPOs do?

- · Participate in or facilitate community processes that identify resources, needs and projects
- Incorporate the broader public transportation needs into regional transportation plans
- Serve on the Review Panels that will be evaluating the state and federal grant applications (October 2002)